

ROUGH JOB

The machinist who tried to kill himself
because he couldn't stop crying like a girl
when he was on PCP;
the machinist holding up the pussy magazine
in front of his face
to be sure everyone knows he's staring at it;
the machinist in a constant rage
because his wife won't give him a blowjob;
the machinist telling everyone how much he hates
the queers on the 2nd tier of the L.A. County Jail;
the machinist who walks around with a tape measure
pulled out to 12 or 15 inches
and held in front of his fly;
the machinist who wears a hat saying "U.S. Male"
and smokes big cigars
and weightlifts steel bars and arbors
while his machine runs:

being a man in a machine shop
is not easy.

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD

He had begun screaming
broken sentences
at the top of his lungs,
jumping off of the platform in front of his machine
over and over
as his machine ran.
His eyes darted about
as he cringed at the prospect
of his job creeping on and on and on
like Chinese water torture.

He had spent two years
learning the machine and the blueprints
and the machining operations
backwards and forwards,
until he could do his job in his sleep.

Now he was really going to have to start
earning his money.